

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS29396 / H0590

The purpose of this bill is to streamline the worker's compensation settlement process for the involved parties, employers and injured workers, who choose to settle their respective claims, rather than go to hearing (trial). Currently, the settlement process is cumbersome, slow, and private party agreements require approval of the Industrial Commissioners. This bill eliminates the requirement of approval of the Industrial Commissioners, except for settlements involving minors, legally incompetent persons, or when either party is not represented by an attorney, The Industrial Commission would still require the parties to submit information regarding settlements.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill will have no negative fiscal impact on state or municipal governments, nor the state general fund. It will have a positive fiscal impact in the minor lessening of attorney fees for worker's compensation cases contracted to private attorneys by the state. It will also significantly reduce the cost of work hours by Industrial Commission employees.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).